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In a method for the treatment of emboli or other occlusion in a blood vessel in which the occlusion is crossed by a guidewire, the improvement comprising aspirating while crossing said occlusion.

- 2. In the method of Claim 1, wherein the improvement comprises aspirating while crossing said occlusion in a proximal to distal direction.
- 3. A method for the evacuation of an occlusive substance from a blood vessel comprising:

positioning a distal end of a guidewire proximal to at least a portion of the occlusive substance within said blood vessel;

introducing an aspiration catheter over said guidewire; and crossing the site of the occlusive substance with the distal end of the guidewire and the aspiration catheter while aspirating.

- 4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising moving the distal end of the aspiration catheter in a distal to proximal direction following delivery of the guidewire across the site of the occlusive substance.
- 5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising aspirating while moving the distal end of the aspiration eatheter in a distal to proximal direction.
- 6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising repeating said crossing while aspirating in both a proximal to distal and in a distal to proximal direction.
- The method of Claim 3, wherein said occlusion is a thrombus or embolus.
 - 8. The method of Claim 3, wherein said guidewire includes an occlusive device at its distal end.
 - 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said occlusive device is a balloon.
 - 10. The method of Claim 8, further comprising activating said occlusive device to prevent particle migration past said occlusive device.
 - 11. The method of Claim 9, further comprising delivering a therapy catheter to perform therapy on said occlusive substance following activation of said occlusive device.

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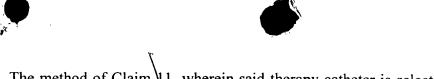
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- The method of Claim \1, wherein said therapy catheter is selected from 12. the group consisting of an angioplasty balloon catheter, a stent delivery catheter and an atherectomy catheter.
- The method of Claim 3, wherein said blood vessel is a saphenous vein 13. graft.

A method for treatment of an occlusion in a totally occluded blood vessel or partially occluded blood vessel defined by thrombolysis in myocardial infarction (TIMI) flow of 0-1, comprising:

delivering a guidewire until its distal end is proximal to the occlusion;

delivering an aspiration catheter until a distal end of the aspiration catheter is proximal the occlusion;

simultaneously crossing the site of the occlusion in a proximal to distal direction with said distal end of the guidewire and the distal end of the aspiration catheter while aspirating;

moving the distal end of the aspiration catheter back across the site of the occlusion in a distal to proximal direction while aspirating;

exchanging said guidewire for a guidewire having an occlusive device at its distal end; and

positioning the occlusive device at a site distal to the occlusion, and activating said occlusive device.

- The method of Claim 14, further comprising inserting a therapy catheter 15. to perform therapy on said occlusion.
- 16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising introducing said aspiration catheter to remove debris generated during said therapy.
- 17. The method of Claim 14, wherein said blood vessel is a saphenous vein graft. Suh (23)
 - 18. The method of Claim 14, wherein said occlusion is a thrombus or embolus.
 - 19. The method of Claim 14, wherein said occlusive device is a balloon.

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20. The method of Claim 14, further comprising repeating at least once said crossing while aspirating and moving said aspiration catheter in a distal to proximal direction.

A method for treatment of an occlusion in a partially occluded blood vessel, comprising:

delivering a guidewire having an occlusive device at its distal end until the distal end is distal said occlusion;

delivering an aspiration catheter until its distal end is proximal to the occlusion;

activating said occlusive device; and

crossing the site of the occlusion with the distal end of the aspiration catheter while aspirating.

- 22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising moving the distal end of the aspiration catheter in a distal to proximal direction across the occlusion while aspirating.
- 23. The method of Claim 21, further comprising inserting a therapy catheter to perform therapy on said occlusion following activation of the occlusive device.
- 24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising removing the aspiration catheter prior to inserting the therapy catheter.
- 25. The method of Claim 21, further comprising introducing asaid aspiration catheter after performing therapy to remove debris generated during said therapy.
 - 26. The method of Claim 21, wherein said blood vessel is a saphenous vein

graft.

27. The method of Claim 21, wherein said occlusion is a thrombus or embolus.

28. The method of Claim 21, wherein said occlusive device is a balloon.

- 29. The method of Claim 22, further comprising repeating at least once said crossing while aspirating and moving said aspiration catheter in a distal to proximal direction.
- 30. The method of Claim 23, wherein said therapy catheter is selected from the group consisting of an atherectomy catheter, stent and balloon catheter.

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